



Acetaldehyde

The information contained on this document was obtained from a variety of sources including the EPA, State of New Jersey, ATSDR and Maine industries. The release data is from required reporting to THWRP, the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and to EPA Toxics Release Inventory (TRI).

What is it?

Acetaldehyde is a colorless, flammable liquid. It occurs naturally in certain foods such as ripe fruits and coffee. Green plants produce acetaldehyde as they break down food.

What is it used for?

Acetaldehyde is used as a fruit and fish preservative, a denaturant for alcohol, for hardening gelatin fibers, and as a solvent in the synthetic rubber, tanning and paper industries. It is also used in the manufacture of perfumes, plastics, and silvering mirrors.

Sources in Maine?

Paper Mills

Where is it released?

It is released to air during wood pulping, wood combustion, pulp bleaching, chemical recovery and wastewater treatment facility operations. It is released to surface water from the wastewater treatment facility. It is released to land when some residual wastewater treatment sludge is brought to a landfill.

Human Health Effects?

Acetaldehyde has been known to be a CARCINOGEN in animals and may also be in humans. Exposure affects and irritates the respiratory system, cardiovascular system, and skin and eyes.

Environmental Effects?

Acetaldehyde can contribute to the formation of photochemical smog when it reacts with other volatile organic carbon substances in air. It dissolves completely when mixed with water. Since it does not bind well with soil, it can move through the ground and get into groundwater.

2001 Releases In Maine

189,525 lbs

For more information please go to these websites: